

ADVISING MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENTS

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When advising, it can sometimes be difficult to know if a student is military-connected or not. It is completely appropriate to ask any student if they or a parent or spouse have ever served in the armed forces and/or are using any type of Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits to fund their education. If they are, the following guidelines should be considered:

- Many veteran, national guard or reserve students are not aware that their prior military training can be evaluated for transfer credits, or that previously unused fall-through courses could be evaluated for course equivalency. Current or prior service/training may also qualify for educational benefits from VA or the state of Oregon. Please advise any student interested in additional credit for military training or course equivalency to reach out to Don.Stockton@oit.edu.
- Timely advising of military-connected students is very important as the student cannot request payment from the VA until they are fully registered each term. It is recommended that VA benefited students be given prioritized advising sessions.
- Military-connected students have a maximum of 36 months to cover their education, so the efficient planning of course work is imperative (1 day of full-time enrollment = 1 day of benefit used).
- To receive maximum benefits, the student must be full-time. VA considers 12 credits full-time for undergraduates, and 9 credits full-time for graduate students (summer sessions require 4 credits per 4 week session to achieve full-time). Less than full-time enrollment will result in the student receiving a prorated living stipend.
- Veterans Affairs will only pay for courses mandatory under the student's declared major (core and electives). An additional major or minors could be added to keep a student full-time (12 credits) if primary major courses are not available, but this uses additional months of VA benefits.
- Summer sessions are the best time to plan internships/externships as major courses are limited. Internships/externships must be for credit.
- A class a student has already passed (based on the grading requirement for the course) cannot be paid for again by the VA. A failed course can be paid for again, but only if it is a core requirement for the major/minor.